

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



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### November Crop Report Comment

Yields of corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, rice, grain sorghum, beans, peanuts, sugar beets and grapes are all running substantially above earlier expectations chiefly because October weather was more favorable than usual for late crops which escaped the September frosts, according to the November crop report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Combining all crops, prospects averaged about 1½ per cent better than they were a month ago, but, chiefly on account of the summer drought, crop yields averaged 5.8 per cent below those secured last year and 2.6 per cent below the average yields of the previous ten years.

*Apples.*—The apple harvest seems to have turned out about as expected a month ago, nearly all the important producing areas reporting production to be light and quality far below average. The crop is now estimated at 140,099,000 bushels compared with the 185,743,000 bushels harvested last season and an average of 183,452,000 during the previous five years.

The commercial apple crop, including only that portion sold or to be sold for consumption as fresh fruit, is estimated at 28,519,000 barrels of three bushels each, compared with 35,268,000 barrels last year and an average of 32,468,000 barrels during the previous five years. The Western boxed apple states produced the equivalent of 12,846,000 barrels compared with 16,811,000 last year, and the barreled apple states 15,673,000 barrels compared with 18,457,000 barrels last year. Small size and poor quality are reported from most of the commercial states.

*Pears.*—The pear crop turned out slightly better than expected a month ago, the estimated production being 20,812,000 bushels compared with 24,012,000 bushels last year and 20,211,000 bushels the average production for the five years 1923-27. The crop was smaller than last year in the large producing states, but Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and a few other states had larger crops. California with an estimated production of 7,509,000 bushels, has 36 per cent of the total crop. The quality of this year's crop is reported to be 81 per cent, which compares with 81.8 per cent for the 1928 and 87.2 the average for the previous ten years.

*Cranberries.*—The 1929 production of cranberries is estimated at 584,000 barrels as compared to 554,000 produced in 1928 and 496,000 in 1927. The increase in production is due to the large crop in Massachusetts, production in other states being less than it was last year.

*Sweet potatoes.*—The yield of sweet potatoes promises to be much larger than has been expected and the estimated production of 82,917,000 bushels is 8 per cent above the October forecast and 7 per cent above the 1928 crop of 77,661,000 bushels. However, it is still 12 per cent below the large 1927 crop of 94,112,000 bushels. The quality of this year's crop is reported as rather below average in most states and far below average in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

*Dry edible beans.*—The production of dry edible beans is estimated at 18,638,000 bushels. This is 530,000 bushels more than was expected a month ago, 2,000,000 bushels more than were produced last year and 1,580,000 bushels above the average production during the previous five years. The principal increases over last year's production occurred in Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico and California, these increases being mostly of Great Northern, Pintos and Limas. The pea bean crop, grown mostly in Michigan and New York, appears to be slightly smaller than last year's production.

#### **Labeling of Pork and Blackeyed Peas**

In the Information Letter for October 12 it was announced on the basis of advice received from the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration, that the labeling of canned blackeyed peas prepared from dried peas should follow the same principle as that announced in the case of canned dry peas and lima beans. In response to a further inquiry with regard to the propriety of the designation "Pork and Blackeyed peas" for the canned prod-

uct similar to pork and beans, except for the use of blackeyed peas instead of beans, the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration has now written the Association:

"While canned dried blackeyed peas should be labeled in accordance with Item 389 (S. R. A. Chem. 28, 1923), we are not inclined to consider the product 'Pork and Blackeyed peas' necessarily subject to analogy with the former. If the product in mind consists of blackeyed peas prepared and canned in a manner similar to the beans in 'Pork and Beans,' and canned with a small amount of pork, we are not disposed to object at this time to the designation 'Pork and Blackeyed Peas' provided of course that the general style of labeling in no wise suggests the use of succulent blackeyed peas. It would be misleading to designate this product as 'Pork and Beans.' "

#### Production of Corn and Tomatoes for Canning

With last week's Information Letter was mailed a mimeographed statement furnishing statistics on the acreage and production of tomatoes and sweet corn for manufacture, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. These figures, which are preliminary and subject to revision in the report to be issued in December, place the production of tomatoes in 1929 at 1,377,700 tons, an increase of 405,200 tons, or nearly 42 per cent, over the output in 1928, and 14 per cent larger than the average production for the last five years. The estimated production of sweet corn is 631,800 tons, an increase of 47,700 tons, or about 8 per cent, over the 1928 production.

The following table summarizes the acreage and production figures for the years 1925-1928, along with the preliminary figures for 1929:

	ACREAGE Acres	PRODUCTION Tons
<b>CORN</b>		
1925 .....	393,910	1,014,100
1926 .....	317,310	818,000
1927 .....	323,350	413,000
1928 .....	301,730	384,100
1929 (preliminary) .....	326,040	631,800
<b>TOMATOES</b>		
1925 .....	349,930	1,772,300
1926 .....	261,300	993,300
1927 .....	255,000	1,144,300
1928 .....	255,310	972,300
1929 (preliminary) .....	285,840	1,377,700

#### Truck Crop Markets

The carlot supply of fruits and vegetables was showing the usual seasonal decrease, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Combined forwardings of 28 products dropped to 18,400 cars during the week ended November 9, or about 2,400 less

than movement of a year ago. The season opened for Florida peppers and Texas and Virginia spinach. November estimates showed considerable increases over October figures in the production of potatoes, sweet potatoes, grapes and pears.

Virginia's output of sweet potatoes for the week decreased to 275 cars. Tennessee shipped 95 and Maryland about 70. The total was 615 cars.

Cabbage shipments dropped sharply to 1,075 cars. New York started 595, Wisconsin 265 and Minnesota 95 cars.

Commodity	CARLOT SHIPMENTS					
	Nov. 8-9 1929	Oct. 27 Nov. 2 1929	Nov. 4-10 1928	Total this season to Nov. 9	Total last season to Nov. 10	Total last season
Apples, total	4,524	6,430	5,918	62,054	63,023	127,523
Eastern states	1,705	2,582	2,428	33,973	44,023	62,793
Western states	2,819	3,848	3,492	28,181	39,000	64,810
Cabbage	1,075	1,473	970	34,884	30,859	35,433
Carrots:						
1929 season	103	134	86	929	492	10,393
1928 season	87	105	80	10,395	6,423	7,453
Cauliflower	95	117	235	3,094	1,894	9,899
Green peas:						
1929 season	22	5	31	24	52	5,130
1928 season	0	18	19	5,139	4,630	4,850
Mixed vegetables	369	249	334	28,999	29,934	32,384
Pears	161	263	175	18,949	22,967	24,439
Peppers	23	33	30	3,157	3,300	3,300
Spinach:						
1929 season	22	0	38	22	36	10,057
1928 season	70	66	68	10,067	10,866	10,373
String beans:						
1929 season	31	19	8	45	12	8,483
1928 season	94	89	80	8,483	6,626	6,707
Tomatoes	420	384	339	30,880	29,911	30,890

### Corn Pack in New York

Statistics on the corn and succotash pack in New York have been compiled by the Association of New York Cannerymen, which show the pack to have been as follows during the last five years, stated in cases of No. 2's:

	Corn Cases	Succotash Cases
1925	1,307,716	115,661
1926	1,000,491	92,769
1927	716,486	38,334
1928	686,372	54,964
1929	729,771	38,636

### Business Conditions

Business activity during the week ended November 9, as indicated by check payments, showed a recession from the high level of the preceding week but was substantially greater than for the corresponding period of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Freight car loadings were greater than for both prior periods.

Wholesale prices continued to decline and were substantially lower than for the corresponding week of 1928. Bank loans

and discounts receded somewhat from last week's high level but were substantially larger than a year ago. Interest rates on time money were lower and those on call money the same as during the previous week, rates on both being lower than for the corresponding week of last year.

Business failures, while slightly fewer than during the previous week, were larger than for the same week of 1928.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended November 2 .....	1,071,650	418,302	271,191	382,157
Preceding week .....	1,183,810	449,076	270,298	414,336
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	1,103,042	437,961	267,762	408,299
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	1,039,075	410,220	270,025	358,827

Proposed Definitions of Fruit Juices Announced

Tentative definitions of fruit juice, grape juice, and orange juice were drawn up by The Food Standards Committee at a recent meeting of the committee in Washington, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Criticisms and suggestions regarding the proposed definitions and standards are now invited from food officials, consumers, the trade, and all other interested parties. The definitions proposed are as follows:

Fruit Juices are the clean, unfermented juices obtained from the first pressing of sound, mature, fresh fruits, or of their pulp, and correspond in name to the fruit from which they are obtained.

Grape Juice is the unfermented, expressed juice of clean, sound, mature grapes. It is made by a single pressing of the fruit, with or without the aid of heat, and with or without the removal of insoluble matter.

Orange Juice is the clean, unfermented juice, with or without portions of the pulp, obtained from the sound, mature fruit of the orange, *Citrus sinensis*, (a) by reaming or burring the cut fruit, (b) by pressing the pulp after removal of the peel, or (c) by pressing the whole fruit with subsequent removal of oil derived from the peel.

Communications regarding these proposed definitions should be addressed to A. S. Mitchell, secretary, Food Standards Committee, Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., to reach him not later than February 1.

### **Causes of Retail Failure in Newark to be Studied**

At the request of retail credit and other business organizations, the study of the causes of retail failures being conducted by the Department of Commerce with the cooperation of these organizations will be extended to include a more intensive and complete study of this subject in Newark, N. J. Commerce Department specialists are cooperating in this instance with Judge William Clark, U. S. District Court of New Jersey, representative of the Yale Law School, and the North Jersey Association of Credit Men. Approximately one thousand stores will be studied, including all lines of retail trade.

### **Pamphlet on Vitamin Content of Canned Pears Available for Distribution**

Reprints of the article on the vitamin content of canned pears, which was noted in the Information Letter for September 28, are now available from the Association. The article is the result of cooperative research in the laboratories of the Department of Foods and Nutrition of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Teachers College of Columbia University, and the National Cannery Association.

### **Superintendent of Prisons Asks for New Bids on Canned Foods**

In the Information Letter for November 2 was noted a request for bids on canned foods from the Superintendent of Federal Prisons, bids to be opened on December 2.

A second invitation for bids, to be opened at 11 a. m., on December 2, superseding and cancelling the invitation dated November 1 for bids to be opened December 2, has been issued by the Superintendent of Federal Prisons, Department of Justice. Copies of the schedule on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. Canned foods on which bids are asked include tomatoes, corn, peas, string beans, spinach, catsup, beets, peaches, pie, rhubarb, apples and pumpkin.

### **Retail Trade in October**

Department store sales for October were 3 per cent larger than in the corresponding month a year ago, according to preliminary reports made to the Federal reserve system by 483 stores. Increases in total sales were reported by 252 stores and decreases by 231 stores.



The change in sales varied considerably for different parts of the country, ranging from an increase of 7 per cent in the Boston and New York Federal reserve districts to a decrease of 11 per cent in the Minneapolis district.

### Food Fallacies

"Speaking of canned vegetables, another fallacy is called to my attention almost any time I am home for a week or more," says Laura McLaughlin, Associate Professor of Foods and Nutrition, Iowa State College, in an article in *Hygeia* for October. "Our family is small; we cannot use a whole can of peas, corn or peaches at one meal. I have attempted to put part back into the refrigerator in its original container, but I am never successful. I am told that the food will be poisoned."

"The danger of tin poisoning from the can is negligible; no case has ever been proved. Likewise, there is no danger in eating acid foods like tomatoes that have been heated in aluminum vessels. Because the tomatoes brighten the aluminum or because you see dark spots on aluminum pans in which spinach has stood over night, you think trouble may ensue. But the small quantities of aluminum are quite harmless that are absorbed in the brief process of cooking vegetables in aluminum vessels."

"Food Fallacies," is the title of the article, which deals with many current ideas about foods that are often nothing but old wives' tales. Canners will find it interesting reading.

### Fruit in Cold Storage

Cold storage holdings of fruit on November 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were:

	November 1, 1929	November 1, 1928	5-year average
Apples:			
Boxes .....	10,123,000	12,333,000	9,542,000
Barrels .....	2,143,000	2,078,000	2,090,000
Baskets .....	6,388,000	4,932,000	2,784,000
Pears:			
Boxes .....	2,034,000	2,100,000	1,209,000
Barrels .....	27,000	28,000	55,000
Frozen and preserved fruit (pounds)	61,718,000	77,374,000	51,269,000

### Employment in October

Employment decreased 1.2 per cent in October, as compared with September, while pay-roll totals increased 0.4 per cent, according to a report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Pay-roll totals showed the usual October recovery

from the effect of Labor Day closing in September. This report is based upon returns made by 34,722 establishments, having in October 5,255,529 employees, whose combined earnings in one week were \$145,196,138. The industrial groups included were manufacturing, mining, quarrying, public utilities, trade, hotels, and canning.

#### Publications of Interest to Cannery

*Cost and practices in strawberry production.*—A study to determine the cost of production of strawberries in the Willamette Valley and the factors and practices permitting reduction of cost is reported upon in Bulletin 245 of the Experiment Station at Corvallis. The average production cost was found to be 5.87 cents per pound, and the cost of establishing a strawberry planting was \$79.28 per acre. Heavy yields and the efficient use of labor are the most important factors affecting the cost of producing strawberries.

*Oyster industry on the Pacific Coast.*—The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has issued as Document 1066 an illustrated bulletin of about 30 pages which gives the results of a preliminary survey of the oyster problems of the Pacific Coast.

*Spinach fertilization.*—Results of experiments conducted from 1926 to 1928 at the Virginia Experiment Station, Norfolk, on the effect of certain synthetically produced nitrogen salts on the growth and quality of spinach are presented in Bulletin 63 of that station.

*Sweet cherry handling.*—The Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis, Oregon, has issued as Bulletin 247 a report on investigations continued through five seasons to determine the influence of such factors as climate, season, locality, time of picking and storage upon the dessert, canning and shipping qualities of sweet cherries. It also includes results of a study of some of the chemical and physiological changes that occur during ripening and of an attempt to perfect a test of maturity that can be used under field conditions.

*Sweet potato fertilizers.*—Bulletin No. 66 of the Virginia Experiment Station at Norfolk gives the results of fertilizer investigations first begun in 1920 and carried on to 1928. It describes the effect of various combinations of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash on yield and quality of the crop under varying climatic conditions, and makes recommendations as to mixtures and methods of application.